

Joshua – Lesson 13

Joshua Chapter 13

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I. Joshua Draws Near to the End of Life's Journey

Josh 13:1 Now Joshua was old and stricken in years; and the LORD said unto him, Thou art old and stricken in years, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed.

We are told in verse 1 that Joshua was advanced in years and well stricken. It is a great blessing if God allows us to live to old age. Consider Moses when he became old.

Deu 34:1 And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan,

Deu 34:2 And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea,

Deu 34:3 And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zoar.

Deu 34:4 And the LORD said unto him, This is the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.

Deu 34:5 So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

Deu 34:6 And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.

Deu 34:7 And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

Would it not be wonderful to be allowed to live a full life, and yet in our latter years, to still be strong, to have our natural forces about us, and to still see as a young man. Not many are granted this. Joshua was not young, and he did not have all of his forces still in tact. But even though he was not strong in body, The Lord did not desert him in his old age. And all of us who know Jesus as Lord and Savior, he will in no wise cast us out.

Josh 24:29 And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old.

Isa 46:3 Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb:

Isa 46:4 And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you:

I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

God's promises here in Isaiah about how He will be with us in our latter years. In verse one of Chapter 13, God reminds Joshua that there was still much land that remained to be possessed. This no doubt humbled Joshua, and made him realize that there must be others who will have to follow in his steps. Joshua did not finish all the work, and as long as Jesus tarries his coming, you and I will not finish the work of the church. That is why we are to keep training the young as they are saved, that faithful men may continue the work of God after we pass from this earthly scene.

2 Tim 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Josh 13:2 This is the land that yet remaineth: all the borders of the Philistines, and all Geshuri,

Josh 13:3 From Sihor, which is before Egypt, even unto the borders of Ekron northward, which is counted to the Canaanite: five lords of the Philistines; the Gazathites, and the Ashdothites, the Eshkalonites, the Gittites, and the Ekronites; also the Avites:

Josh 13:4 From the south, all the land of the Canaanites, and Mearah that is beside the Sidonians unto Aphek, to the borders of the Amorites:

Joshua could not boast that he had driven out all the enemy, for many still remained in the land. While the Lord acknowledged his age, he did not encourage Joshua to be Slack. In verse 6 God appeared unto Joshua to give him instructions. He was told to divide the land of Canaan unto the children of Israel.

Who would know better how to do that than Joshua. He was one of the original 12 spies sent in to Spy out the land sent in by Moses. By fighting all of these foreign nations, Joshua was well acquainted with the boundaries of the land. No person, no matter what their age, is ever too old to be used in God's work. Even if we can do little else than pray, what power our prayers may have after growing in faith year after year.

II. The Unoccupied Part of the Land

Josh 13:5 And the land of the Giblites, and all Lebanon, toward the sunrising, from Baalgad under mount Hermon unto the entering into Hamath.

Josh 13:6 All the inhabitants of the hill country from Lebanon unto Misrephothmaim, and all the Sidonians, them will I drive out from before the children of Israel: only divide thou it by lot unto the Israelites for an inheritance, as I have commanded thee.

This is a list of the sections of Palestine that were still occupied by the heathen. Joshua had to stir up the people to continue on taking the land like God wanted them to do. Sometimes in the church, the preacher has to encourage and exhort us to keep doing the important things. We should never stop going forward for God... we should always be spreading the Gospel, visiting the sick, and most of all, reaching the lost for

Jesus Christ. Joshua was to divide the land according to the command of God.

W. A. Criswell said in the Believer's Study Bible that Joshua had done a great work, but much work remained to be done.

13:1 With the basic conquest completed, Joshua was told (vv. 1–7) to begin the allotment of the land that remained to be possessed. This allocation is described in chs. 13–21 (the main section given in chs. 14–19). Although Joshua had done a great work, great work remained to be done. This is always the case—"God's workers die, but His work goes on." As predicted in Ex. 23:27–33, the complete conquest was to be a gradual process

*Josh 13:7 Now therefore divide this land for an inheritance unto the nine tribes, and the half tribe of Manasseh,
Josh 13:8 With whom the Reubenites and the Gadites have received their inheritance, which Moses gave them, beyond Jordan eastward, even as Moses the servant of the LORD gave them;
Josh 13:9 From Aroer, that is upon the bank of the river Arnon, and the city that is in the midst of the river, and all the plain of Medeba unto Dibon;
Josh 13:10 And all the cities of Sihon king of the Amorites, which reigned in Heshbon, unto the border of the children of Ammon;
Josh 13:11 And Gilead, and the border of the Geshurites and Maachathites, and all mount Hermon, and all Bashan unto Salcah;
Josh 13:12 All the kingdom of Og in Bashan, which reigned in Ashtaroth and in Edrei, who remained of the remnant of the giants: for these did Moses smite, and cast them out.*

The Lord gives orders concerning the dividing of Canaan, naming the bounds and some of the places that are in the land. Joshua did not delay, but after receiving the orders from God, Joshua gets at the task immediately. We need to be about whatever God would have you and I do just as quickly. Once we know God's Will for our lives, we should never delay.

Josh 13:13 Nevertheless the children of Israel expelled not the Geshurites, nor the Maachathites: but the Geshurites and the Maachathites dwell among the Israelites until this day.

Israel did not drive out all the inhabitants of the land like God told them to do. These failures were not God's fault, He had empowered them, but these failures many times came back to haunt the nation later. In verse 6, God told them that I WILL DRIVE OUT.

Josh 13:14 Only unto the tribe of Levi he gave none inheritance; the sacrifices of the LORD God of Israel made by fire are their inheritance, as he said unto them.

In verse 14 the Lord tells us that Moses gave no inheritance to the tribe of Levi. (also

in verse 33)

Josh 13:15 And Moses gave unto the tribe of the children of Reuben inheritance according to their families.

Josh 13:16 And their coast was from Aroer, that is on the bank of the river Arnon, and the city that is in the midst of the river, and all the plain by Medeba;

Josh 13:17 Heshbon, and all her cities that are in the plain; Dibon, and Bamothbaal, and Bethbaalmeon,

Josh 13:18 And Jahaza, and Kedemoth, and Mephaath,

Josh 13:19 And Kirjathaim, and Sibmah, and Zarethshahar in the mount of the valley,

Josh 13:20 And Bethpeor, and Ashdothpishgah, and Bethjeshimoth,

Josh 13:21 And all the cities of the plain, and all the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, which reigned in Heshbon, whom Moses smote with the princes of Midian, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, which were dukes of Sihon, dwelling in the country.

Josh 13:22 Balaam also the son of Beor, the soothsayer, did the children of Israel slay with the sword among them that were slain by them.

Josh 13:23 And the border of the children of Reuben was Jordan, and the border thereof. This was the inheritance of the children of Reuben after their families, the cities and the villages thereof.

Balaam was the one that was hired to curse the children of Israel as they came into the wilderness. Balaam's death is recorded in verse 22 and in these verses there is a record of the land that Moses gave to the tribe of Reuben.

Josh 13:24 And Moses gave inheritance unto the tribe of Gad, even unto the children of Gad according to their families.

Josh 13:25 And their coast was Jazer, and all the cities of Gilead, and half the land of the children of Ammon, unto Aroer that is before Rabbah;

Josh 13:26 And from Heshbon unto Ramathmizpeh, and Betonim; and from Mahanaim unto the border of Debir;

Josh 13:27 And in the valley, Betharam, and Bethnimrah, and Succoth, and Zaphon, the rest of the kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon, Jordan and his border, even unto the edge of the sea of Chinnereth on the other side Jordan eastward.

Josh 13:28 This is the inheritance of the children of Gad after their families, the cities, and their villages.

These verses record the land that Moses gave to the tribes of Gad on the east side of Jordan.

Matthew Henry said this about the inheritance of the tribe of Gad.

The lot of the tribe of Gad, v. 24–28. This lay north of Reuben's lot; the country of Gilead lay in this tribe, so famous for its balm that it is thought strange indeed if there be no balm in Gilead, and the cities of Jabesh-Gilead and Ramoth-Gilead which we often read of in scripture. Succoth and Penuel, which we read of in the

story of Gideon, were in this tribe; and that forest which is called the *wood of Ephraim* (from the slaughter Jephthah made there of the Ephraimites), in which Absalom's rebellious army was beaten, while his father David lay at Mahanaim, one of the frontier-cities of this tribe, v. 26. Sharon, famous for roses, was in this tribe. And within the limits of this tribe lived those Gadarenes that loved their swine better than their Savior, fitter to be called *Girgashites* than *Israelites*.

Josh 13:29 And Moses gave inheritance unto the half tribe of Manasseh: and this was the possession of the half tribe of the children of Manasseh by their families.

Josh 13:30 And their coast was from Mahanaim, all Bashan, all the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, and all the towns of Jair, which are in Bashan, threescore cities:

Josh 13:31 And half Gilead, and Ashtaroth, and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan, were pertaining unto the children of Machir the son of Manasseh, even to the one half of the children of Machir by their families.

Josh 13:32 These are the countries which Moses did distribute for inheritance in the plains of Moab, on the other side Jordan, by Jericho, eastward.

Josh 13:33 But unto the tribe of Levi Moses gave not any inheritance: the LORD God of Israel was their inheritance, as he said unto them.

And the last verses of Chapter 13 show what lands were given to the half tribe of Manasseh. It was a great blessing to the people of Israel that they were given lands that they did not develop and houses they did not build. God does always stand by His Word, and whatever He promises, He delivers. We should be men and women that try our very best to do exactly what we say. Christians that do this honor and glorify Jesus.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.